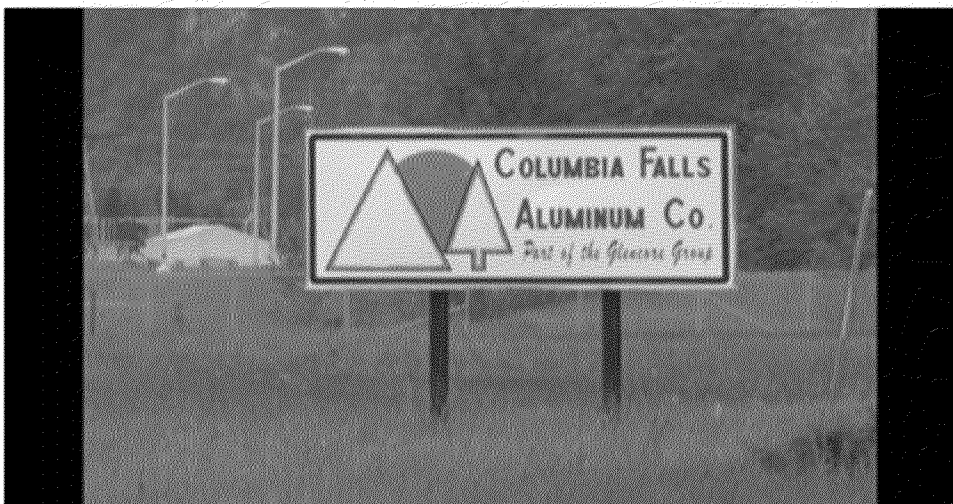




**Congressman Ryan Zinke**

19 hrs · 🌐

Local EPA officials told my staff that they were usurped by D.C. bureaucrats on this. EPA officials in D.C. unilaterally declaring Columbia Falls a superfund community doesn't sit well with me. I grew up in the Flathead. I know how vibrant the Columbia Falls community and economy can be. EPA bureaucracy in Washington, D.C., is betting against Columbia Falls and taking away our local control. I stand with county commissioners who say we need to hold the company accountable but we also need to retain our right to do what we see is fit for the land. Once communities are put on the National Priorities List as a Superfund site, they rarely come off. That stigma remains. It draws down property values and hinders investment and future economic development. For a community that just lost a hundred timber jobs, I don't think that's something we can afford. I'm very disappointed in the EPA's decision and will be working with community leaders to figure out ways to revitalize the area and bring jobs back to the Flathead.



## Columbia Falls aluminum plant declared a Superfund site

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is adding the Columbia Falls aluminum site to the Superfund program's National Priorities List (NPL).

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2018-003543-0369